

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 16

Introduced by Senator Block

(Coauthors: Senators *Allen, Anderson, Bates, Fuller, Hall, Hertzberg, Huff, Leno, and Monning, Nielsen, Vidak, Wieckowski, and Wolk*)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Travis Allen, Baker, Brough, Calderon, Chang, Chávez, Chu, and Dodd, Harper, Lackey, Waldron, and Wood*)

February 2, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 16—Relative to Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 16, as amended, Block. Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the week of March 2, 2015, through March 8, 2015, as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The week of March 2, 2015, through March 8,
- 2 2015, has been declared Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week in
- 3 recognition of the importance of finding the cause of, and a cure
- 4 for, multiple sclerosis and to express appreciation to the National
- 5 Multiple Sclerosis Society and its California chapters; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Multiple sclerosis is a neurological disease of the
- 7 central nervous system that affects an estimated 400,000 Americans
- 8 across the country, and nearly 200 new cases are diagnosed each
- 9 week nationwide; and
- 10 WHEREAS, More than 40,000 people in California are affected
- 11 by this devastating disease; and

1 WHEREAS, Twice as many women as men have multiple
2 sclerosis and most are diagnosed between ~~the ages of 20 and 50;~~
3 *50 years of age, inclusive*, and while studies indicate genetic factors
4 make certain individuals more susceptible than others, there is no
5 evidence that multiple sclerosis is directly inherited; and

6 WHEREAS, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, founded
7 in 1946, funds more research, offers more services for people with
8 multiple sclerosis, and provides more professional education
9 programs than any other multiple sclerosis organization in the
10 world. Through its 50-state network of chapters, the society serves
11 more than one million people annually; and

12 WHEREAS, The society is the largest private supporter of
13 multiple sclerosis research in the world, and for more than 55 years
14 it has funded innovative research and advocated for government
15 support of important scientific inquiries; and

16 WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the California chapters of
17 the society have been committed to heightening public knowledge
18 and insight, and are currently planning several major statewide
19 educational programs to raise awareness about the effects of
20 multiple sclerosis; now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
22 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the week of
23 March 2, 2015, through March 8, 2015, as Multiple Sclerosis
24 Awareness Week, and that the residents of the State of California
25 are encouraged to join together in raising awareness and
26 heightening public knowledge of this debilitating disease; and be
27 it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
29 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.